



Indiana Pork Producers Association

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May 12, 2003

Mr. Kenneth R. Payne, Chief,
Marketing Programs Branch,
Livestock and Seed Program
USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
Room 2638-S, Stop 0251
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-0251

Dear Mr. Payne,

Re: Docket No. LS-02-15

We would like to offer the following comments on LS-02-15 on behalf of the Indiana Pork Producers Association and its 3400 members:

We feel that further expansion and definition are required so that the regulation would apply equally and in fairness to all producers and importers who are currently covered by the Pork Checkoff program.

We note that the current regulation does not address the numerous producers who do not use traditional methods of marketing and are not identified by the regulation. Procedures must be added to fully cover other marketing arrangements, such as niche marketing, direct or consignment sales, the use of secondary agents, and pooling, among others.

Further, since there is incomplete compliance with Pork Checkoff, the regulation should not focus only on producers who are currently identifiable because they remit checkoff. The regulation must encompass all of those to whom the Pork Act applies. For instance, size should be a consideration; other sources should be developed or found which identify small producers. An example of possible sources for "small producers" who might be slipping under the net of the regulation would be 4-H and FFA membership, the USDA Ag Census, or state animal health records. Imported swine in any form, especially those brought into the United States as feeder pigs, should also be covered by an expansion of this regulation.

We feel that LS-02-15, as currently written, does not sufficiently address these important issues or provide fairness and equality to all those covered under the Pork Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Tempel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Tempel,
President

